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Vietnamese Still Holding Former Official for CIA

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A former Central Intelligence Agency official is among three Americans still reported held in Vietnam after a fourth American reached Bangkok yesterday.

The last American to return from Vietnam was Richard Hughes, 32, of Pittsburgh, a one-time actor who organized a hostel to aid Saigon's shoeshine boys and orphans. The Associated Press reported that Hughes arrived in Bangkok from Saigon along with 95 French and Vietnamese refugees.

In addition to the three Americans still reported in Vietnam, State Department officials said there are at least 20 other children of Americans plus other American dependents in Vietnam.

For the first time, official U.S. sources acknowledged that one of the remaining Americans is a former CIA employee, identified as Tucker Pierre Edward Gougelmann, 59, generally known as Tucker Gougelmann.

He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a major in 1946 on disability from war wounds in the Tarawa Island campaign of World War II, and later joined the CIA, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Information about Gougelmann first began to seep out from the group of 49 Americans and dependents who were released from Vietnam on Aug. 1.

A U.S. official said this weekend that Gougelmann's former CIA association is obviously known to the authorities in Hanoi, and officials in Washington believe that the only chance he has of being released is if his case is made public.

Gougelmann has been officially listed as "a civilian employee of the U.S. Army."

In addition to Gougelmann, Americans still reported held are Theresa Reed, a religious worker in Vietnam for many years, and Arlo Nleson Gay, described as a boatbuilder and merchant seaman. Gay, like Gougelmann,

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is unofficially reported to be in prison in Hanoi, although Reed and Gay are both listed on U.N. refugee lists as prospective returnees.

Gay has reportedly lived in Vietnam since 1966 and has a Vietnamese wife and daughter. According to U.N. records, he and his family were captured by Communist forces on April 30, 1975, aboard a small boat that landed at an island for refueling.

Gougelmann is described as a bachelor from Indiatlantic, Fla., whose CIA assignments in Vietnam were from 1962 to 1966 and from 1969 to 1972. His CIA duties were unspecified.

He is reported to have retired from the CIA in 1972, entering the fisheries business in Southeast Asia, and to have adopted several Vietnamese children. He is said to have returned to Saigon in 1975 for business and personal reasons and was there in April when the Communists captured the South Vietnamese capital.

Gougelmann was reported to have been arrested in June or July 1975. several of the Americans recently released from Vietnam had to overcome suspicion that they were CIA agents. Gougelmann's prospects for release therefore appear very much in doubt.

State Department officials said yesterday that as an act of reciprocity for the recent release of Americans the United States has authorized licenses for an additional $850,000 of humanitarian aid to be sent to Vietnam by voluntary agencies, including Church World Services and the Bach Mai Hospital Fund.

Since the fall of Saigon, officials said, $3 million worth of American food, medical supplies and other material has been authorized for shipment to Vietnam.

In Manila, the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs announced that 56 Filipino refugees stranded in Saigon for the past 15 months would fly to Manila on Sunday, according to an AP report.

In Yokohama, Japan, a group of 33 Vietnamese refugees rescued by a Dutch tanker were given special landing permits for 30 days, Japanese immigration officials reported. The tanker rescued the refugees in the South China Sea a week ago. Japan does not grant asylum to refugees and the Vietnamese indicated that they will try to find asylum in the United States, France, Switzerland, Canada or Thailand.